

Court Instructions

Probate court handles traffic citations, DNR cases and misdemeanor marijuana. If you are here with any matter other than traffic please check to be sure you are in the right court room. Remember this is a courtroom. Please be respectful to the personnel working with you. In a few moments we will give you a chance to pay your ticket, apply with the Public Defender or speak with the Prosecutor.

Upon entering the Courtroom, please check in with the Clerks. You will need to provide your name and the plea you wish to enter. If you are seeking a reduction in a Speeding Case, please indicate this to the Clerks. There is a standing order in these cases and the Clerk will explain your options, otherwise all discussions of your case should take place with your attorney and the Prosecutor. If you are representing yourself and wish to speak to the Prosecutor before entering a plea or deciding on which type of trial you want please indicate this at check-in.

The purpose of today's arraignment is to notify the accused of the charges against him or her and to allow the entry of a plea of either guilty, not guilty, or NOLO to those charges. Be advised that the court uses discretion in accepting NOLO pleas.

If you wish to represent yourself, you will have an opportunity to speak with the prosecutor of this court. You will need to read and sign the rights form presented to you and the waiver to a jury trial if you wish to proceed with the disposition of your case in this court. Please keep in mind that the Judge and clerks cannot be involved in the negotiation of your case and cannot discuss the details of your case with you.

A guilty plea or a conviction of certain charges, such as NO INSURANCE, SUSPENDED REGISTRATION, POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA, DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE, HIT AND RUN, some CHARGES UNDER THE AGE OF 21, and certain other charges will result in the suspension of your driver's license by the state of GA. Furthermore, the court may impose a license suspension on any traffic case as a condition of probation.

If you are under 21 years old, you must appear before the judge on your case, no exceptions.

If you want to plead guilty, but cannot pay your fine today, you may be placed on probation so that your fine can be paid over time. However, there are additional probation supervision fees that will be assessed. In some cases, once the fine is paid probation will terminate.

The court Clerks will gladly answer any questions that they are authorized by law to answer, however, the Judge and Clerks cannot give you legal advice.

The Judge has the right to accept or deny any negotiated plea.